REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested. Claims 5-8 and 18-35 are pending, Claim 19 having been amended by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 19 was objected to; Claims 5-8, 18-19, 21-32 and 34-35 were rejected as being obvious over Sugiyama (U.S. Patent No. 5,392,284) in view of Bruno et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,356,533, hereinafter Bruno); Claim 33 was rejected as being unpatentable over Sugiyama in view of Bruno and in view of Lu (U.S. Patent No. 6,100,918); and Claim 20 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the identification of allowable subject matter. However, because Applicants believe that the broader claims also patentably define over the asserted prior art, Claim 20 has not been written in independent form.

In reply, Claim 19 has been corrected, as requested.

Claim 18 is directed to an apparatus for configuring a virtual terminal, and includes a signal interface configured to receive a calling signal from a calling terminal. This calling signal includes at least a first content part and a second content part. An information separating unit separates the first content part from the second content part of the calling signal. A terminal management unit identifies communication attributes of a plurality of communication devices accessible to the terminal management unit and identifies which of the devices are capable of processing information corresponding to at least one of the first content part and the second content part. A virtual terminal interface sends information corresponding to the first content part to a first communication device as identified by the terminal management unit, and sends information corresponding to the second content part to a second communication device as identified by the terminal management unit.

An advantage with the present system is that it allows for a calling terminal to call any one of a number of destination terminals, and a particular destination terminal may use the terminal management unit to leverage other accessible communication devices to form a "virtual terminal" able to support the reception of a call having the first content part and second content part. In this way, there is no burden on the calling terminal to send a calling signal that must match the attributes of the destination terminal, or otherwise know anything about the destination terminal, because the calling terminal ultimately communicates with a "virtual terminal" that includes a first and second communication device. Furthermore, it allows the flexibility of the destination terminal to use the attributes of other communication devices to help support the reception of the call.

In a non-limiting example, the destination terminal may only have an audio-reception capability, but the terminal management unit identifies that a video portion of the calling signal may be displayed in a monitor that is nearby the destination terminal. In this way, the combination of the destination terminal and the monitor may form a virtual terminal able to accept the call from the calling terminal. Thus, the full multimedia aspect of the calling signal can be handled, even though a particular destination terminal itself does have all of the attributes necessary to fully process both the first content part and the second content part of the calling signal.

The outstanding Office Action rejects Claim 18 as being obvious over <u>Sugiyama</u> in view of <u>Bruno</u>. The outstanding Office Action asserts that <u>Sugiyama</u> discloses an apparatus for configuring a virtual terminal configured to receive a calling signal from a calling terminal, where the calling signal includes a first content part and a second content part. Applicants respectfully traverse this characterization. <u>Sugiyama</u> is directed to an apparatus that supports 1:1 communication between an originating terminal, and one end terminal, using a network ISDN interface. The communication is made directly between the source

terminal and destination terminal without a virtual terminal interface. Moreover, Sugiyama does not teach or suggest separating a first content part and a second content part of a calling signal, and then sending this information corresponding to the first content part to a first communication device of a virtual terminal, and a second communication device of the virtual terminal. Rather, Sugiyama uses an ISDN connection to send a multimedia message directly to one destination terminal that includes a multiplex/separation unit 17 that separates the received frame for each media type. In order to reliably support this direct 1:1 communication, it is necessary for the source terminal and destination terminal to have common attributes. However, this matching of attributes is not feasible in an adaptive sense because there is no terminal management unit disposed between the source terminal and a plurality of different terminals at the destination side.

The outstanding Office Action recognizes that Sugiyama fails to disclose the terminal management unit as claimed. However, the outstanding Office Action also fails to comprehensively disclose other limitations of Sugiyama, namely that because Sugiyama does not have a terminal management unit, it cannot teach or suggest the ability to provide the first content part to the first communication device identified by a terminal management unit, nor does it identify the second communication device to receive the second content part. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Sugiyama is deficient in regard to its failure to teach either a terminal management unit, or virtual terminal interface that sends information to a first and second communication device respectively identified by a terminal management unit. Instead, in Sugiyama in order for the first and second parts of the calling signal to be received, the destination terminal must be able to handle both the first and second content parts.

Although the outstanding Office Action recognizes that Sugiyama does not teach a terminal management unit, the outstanding Office Action asserts that Bruno cures this

11

deficiency. In particular, the outstanding Office Action refers to the abstract in <u>Bruno</u> and its description of a CRAPS processor. The CRAPS processor that receives profile information from a database and then sends "boot signals" to user devices involved in the communication, instructing them to change the appropriate communication mode. Also, the outstanding Office Action relies on the disclosure at column 3, lines 12-32, which further explains how the CRAPS processor sends boot signals to the necessary user devices in order to complete the exchange of information between source and destination terminals.

However, <u>Bruno</u> also is deficient (as was the case with <u>Sugiyama</u>) with regard to the basic feature of the present invention, namely that it relies on a calling signal from a calling terminal to be processed by a terminal management unit for identification of a first communication device and a second communication device each capable of handling different parts of the calling signal. <u>Bruno</u> does not operate this way. Rather, <u>Bruno</u> operates by providing 1:1 communication between a source and destination terminal and then consulting a database so as to send boot signals to the source, and destination terminals to identify a common communication protocol between them. Thus, <u>Bruno</u> does not allow for a calling terminal to simply send a calling signal to a destination terminal that processes the calling signal into a first content part by a first communication device and a second content part processed by a second communication device.

Moreover, because <u>Bruno</u> is directed to a 1:1 communication system, there is no separation of the first content part and the second content part of the calling signal that is received from the calling terminal, and also no sending of the information corresponding to the first content part to the first one of communication devices and sending information corresponding to the second content part of the second one of the communication devices. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no matter how <u>Sugiyama</u> in view of <u>Bruno</u> are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest all of the elements of independent

Claim 18, namely a terminal management unit and virtual terminal interface as claimed, and therefore does not render obvious the invention defined by Claim 18.

Because Claims 5-8, 19, 21-32 depend from independent Claim 18, it is respectfully submitted that these claims also patentably define over <u>Sugiyama</u> in view of <u>Bruno</u>. Although of differing statutory class and/or scope, Claims 34 and 35 are believed to patentably define over <u>Sugiyama</u> in view of <u>Bruno</u> for substantially the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claim 18.

Claim 33 depends from Claim 18 and is also believed to patentably define over <u>Sugiyama</u> in view of <u>Bruno</u> and in further view of <u>Lu</u>, as <u>Lu</u> does not cure the deficiencies discussed above with regard to <u>Sugiyama</u> and <u>Bruno</u> for the independent Claim 18.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 5-8 and 18-35, as amended, is definite and patentably distinguishing over the prior art. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.
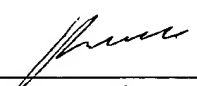
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Bradley D. Lytle
Registration No. 40,073

I:\ATTY\BDL\201339US\201339US-AM3.DOC

13